Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 065815

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND REFUGEES

REF: BANGKOK 7691

- 1. VICE PRESIDENT WISHES TO DEMONSTRATE VISIBLY FOR U.S. AS WELL AS THAI OPINION THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO REFUGEE PROBLEM, ONE IN WHICH HE HAS BECOME PERSONALLY INTERESTED AS A RESULT OF TALKING TO LEO CHERNE.
- 2. WE ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-TERM POLICY ON INDOCHINA REFUGEES BY THE TIME OF HIS VISIT, ONE WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL BE OF BENEFIT TO THAILAND AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES CONFRONTED WITH THE PROBLEM. THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HOW TO HELP RTG COPE WITH PROBLEM OF LAND AS WELL AS BOAT CASE REFUGEES. WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECT TO FORMER, ANYTHING WHICH EMBASSY CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE RTG TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC, REALISTIC PROPOSALS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN TRYING TO REACH HIGH-LEVEL USG-RTG AGREEMENT DURING VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT ON HOW TO PROCEED OVER THE LONG-TERM TO TRY AND RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

3. IN THE ABOVE CONTEXT, A VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT TO

THE DIN DAENG TRANSIT CENTER (NOT THE CHOKCHAI REFUGEE OFFICE) IS IMPORTANT. IF THE EMBASSY CAN OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO THINK OF, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT AND CONSULT THE VICE PRESIDENT. WHILE RTG MAY NOT LIKE PUBLIC EMPHASIS UPON REFUGEES BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, IT IS AN ISSUE OF MAJOR MUTUAL CONCERN. YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO RTG THE REASONS FOR IT AND OUR HOPE TO BE OF EVEN GREATER HELP TO RTG IN FUTURE.

4. CONCERNING TIME PROBLEMS, WE HAD ENVISAGED VISIT TAKING ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES, WITH THIRTY AS ABSOLUTE LIMIT. ASSUMING RTG CAN CLEAR TRAFFIC ADEQUATELY FOR RAPID RIDE IN FROM AIRPORT THIS SHOULD NOT CROWD THE AFTERNOON UNDULY. THERE IS NO OTHER CONVENIENT TIME TO SCHEDULE A REFUGEE EVENT. VANCE

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